AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph.

B1

This application claims priority from U.S. Patent Application serial no. 09/723,232 (attorney docket no. 01017/36917) filed November 27, 2000 which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/189,923 filed March 16, 2000 (attorney docket no. A-666-P) and U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/204,208 (attorney docket no. A-666A-P) filed May 12, 2000. This application also claims priority from U.S. provisional application no. 60/266,159 (attorney docket no. 01017/37128) filed February 2, 2001 ~~which claims benefit of~~ and U.S. provisional application no. 60/213,125 (attorney docket no. A-707-P) filed June 22, 2000. All of the above-identified applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph.

B2

Vectors containing the cDNA inserts corresponding to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 4 and 6 (denoted ~~HIL-17RB-1, HIL-17RB-2 and HIL17RB-3~~ HIL-17RB-2, IL-17RB-3 and IL-17RB1, respectively) have been deposited on March 14, 2001 with the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110, U.S.A. under Accession Nos. PTA-3176, PTA-3177 and PTA-3175, respectively). Included in the present invention are isolated polynucleotides comprising the protein coding or mature protein coding regions of the respective cDNA inserts, as well as mature protein or extracellular domains thereof obtainable by expressing cDNA in suitable host cells.

Please insert the following paragraph at page 17, line 3.

B3

The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 69, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph.

B4

Additional suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, cosmids, plasmids or modified viruses, but it will be appreciated that the vector system must be compatible with the selected host cell. Such vectors include, but are not limited to plasmids such as ~~Bluescript®~~ BLUESCRIPT® plasmid derivatives (a high copy number ColE1-based phagemid, Stratagene Cloning Systems Inc., La Jolla CA), PCR cloning plasmids designed for cloning Taq-amplified PCR products (e.g., TOPO™ TA Cloning® Kit, PCR2.1® plasmid derivatives, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), and mammalian, yeast, or virus vectors such as a baculovirus expression system (pBacPAK plasmid derivatives, Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). The recombinant molecules can be introduced into host cells via transformation, transfection, infection, or other known techniques.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 151, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph.

B5

The pCEP4-huIL-17RB-2 like-Fc plasmid or pCEP4-huIL-17RB-3 like-Fc plasmid (also denoted HIL-17RB-2-Fc and HIL17RB-3-Fc, respectively, and deposited on March 14, 2001 with the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110, U.S.A. under Accession Nos. PTA-3174 and PTA-3178, respectively) were transiently transfected into human 293/EBNA cells using Superfect (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The serum-free conditioned media was harvested from the cells 72 hours after transfection. The recombinant human IL-17RB like-Fc fusion proteins, predicted to have the amino acid sequence APS located at the amino-terminus of the mature protein, were isolated by affinity chromatography using a HiTrap Protein G column (Amersham Pharmacia). The amino acid sequences of the resulting fusion proteins are set out in Figure 22 (IL-17RB-2- Fc fusion protein; SEQ ID NO: 24) and Figure 23 (IL-17RB-3-Fc fusion protein; SEQ ID NO: 25).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 151, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph.

IL-17E was cloned as described in Example 1 of co-owned, concurrently filed U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/810,384 entitled "IL-17 like Molecules and Uses Thereof" (attorney docket no. 01017/37128A), hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. An Epogen signal peptide (EpoSP) fused in frame to the predicted mature protein of the human IL-17E (SEQ ID NO: 23) that was fused in frame to the IgG1 heavy chain constant region (Fc) was engineered as follows to make recombinant mature human IL-17E-Fc fusion protein. The EpoSP DNA encoding for the amino acid sequence MGVHECPAWLWLLLSLLSLPLGLPVLG (SEQ ID NO: 20) was inserted into the pCEP4 expression vector (Invitrogen) in between a consensus Kozak sequence (CCACC) at its 5' end and an AscI site at its 3' end. In addition, the Fc DNA fragment encoding for the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 12 and a NotI restriction site at the 5' end of the sequence was inserted at the 3' end of the EpoSP (SEQ ID NO: 20). A thymidine was inserted immediately after the NotI restriction site in order to keep the coding frame the same. The resulting vector containing the EpoSP and the Fc in pCEP4 is referred to as pCEP4-EpoSP-Fc vector.

B6

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 154, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph.

To determine if IL-17E polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 23) is a ligand for the IL-17 receptor like polypeptides (SEQ ID NO: 2 and/or 5; IL-17RB-2 and/or IL-17RB-3 respectively), competitive binding assays were performed with the human B-lymphoblast cell line GM3104A which has been shown to express IL-17 receptor like polypeptide by Northern Blot and RT-PCR analyses. The conditioned media from 293E cells transfected to express IL-17E-Fc fusion protein (SEQ ID NO: 23), prepared as described in Example 7 above, was collected, concentrated and used for the binding assay. Specificity of ligand binding was determined by competition with soluble blocking receptors, either IL-17RB-2-Fc or IL-17RB-3-Fc fusion proteins (SEQ ID NOS: 22 or 23, respectively). IL-17R-Fc fusion protein (consisting of the extracellular domain of SEQ ID NO: 3) was purified from conditioned media collected from transfected 293E cells and used as a control. Conditioned media from

B7

lost B7

293E cells transfected with IL-17RB-2-Fc or IL-17-RB-3-Fc (deposited with the ATCC on March 14, 2001 under Accession Nos. PTA-3174 and PTA-3178 respectively), as described in Example 6 above, was concentrated (5x) with an Amicon 3Kd cut-off Centracon (#4203) and used for blocking.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 158, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph.

B8

At 8-10 weeks of age, 10 IL-17E ~~overexxpressing~~ overexpressing transgenic mice and five non-transgenic littermates were necropsied. Liver samples from the mice were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen at the time of necropsy. RNAs were isolated from each sample using the Perfect RNA Kit (Eppendorf)according to the manufacturer's instructions and analyzed by Northern blot analysis.

Please replace the abstract beginning at page 189, line 3 with the following rewritten abstract.

B9

~~Novel~~ The present invention provides for IL-17 receptor like polypeptides and nucleic acid molecules encoding the same. The invention also provides vectors, host cells, agonists and antagonists (including selective binding agents), and methods for producing IL-17 receptor like polypeptides. Also provided for are methods for treatment, diagnosis, amelioration, or prevention of diseases with IL-17 receptor like polypeptides.